### *"…It Pleased God…"*

*"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."*
(1 Corinthians 1:21)

THE grand expedient [means] of the infinitely wise God, to bring mankind to the saving knowledge of Himself, is the preaching of the gospel. "By the *foolishness of preaching*, it pleased God to save them that believe." Is the preaching of the gospel, then, *foolishness?* Yes; so it has been accounted by the wise men of this world. By the Greeks, inflated with their empty philosophy, it was regarded as the extreme of foolishness to preach salvation to lost men, through a crucified Saviour and God; and thus it has been regarded by the vain boasters in the 'all-sufficiency' of human reason in every succeeding age.—Well then, says the Apostle, let it be so. Let them esteem the preaching of the cross as they will let them, if they please, call it foolishness. Yet, on this very account, let them be confounded and humbled in the dust for this same "foolishness of God is wiser than men." Lightly esteemed as it is, it will accomplish more, infinitely more, than all the boasted wisdom of the world could ever effect for by this foolishness of preaching, it hath pleased God to save them that believe.

"It *pleased* God," There is an energy in the original, which is hardly perceived in the translation. The word is the same, which was heard from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am *well pleased*." God is *well pleased*, it is His peculiar pleasure, His delight, to save men by the preaching of the cross. This then is not merely one among many ways and means of equal estimation in the Divine Mind; but it is the grand, the principal method, chosen by Infinite Wisdom, to be the power of God unto salvation to them that believe. — SW

### *"…Alpha and Omega…"*

*"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth"* (Psalm 110:3)

IT may seem a harsh sentiment; but he who in his soul believes that man does of his own free-will turn to God, cannot have been taught of God, for that is one of the first principles taught us when God begins with us, that we have neither will nor power, but that He gives both; that He is the *"Alpha and Omega"* in the salvation of men. [AMEN!] — CHS

# Sovereign Grace Church

**September 11th, 2022**

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

*Nursery available for 4 years old and younger*

*"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" — "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe"*

(1 Corinthians 1:18, 21)


Joseph D Murphy, pastor

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**Sovereign Grace Church**

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"Free agency we may believe in, but free-will is simply ridiculous. The will is well-known by all to be directed by the understanding, to be moved by motives, to be guided by other parts of the soul, and to be a secondary thing. Philosophy and religion both discard at once the very thought of free-will! And I will go as far as Martin Luther, in that strong assertion of his, where he says, 'If any man does ascribe anything of salvation, even the very least to the free-will of man, he knows nothing of divine grace, and he has not learnt Jesus Christ aright.'" — CHS

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## Welcome

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

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## Announcements

**Lincoln Wood Baptist Church**

Grace Conference, October Fri 7th— Sun 9th, 2022

Pastor David Pledger, our brother and faithful minister of the gospel, has asked me to extend an invitation to you, all the Saints in New Caney. Hope to see you there!

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## Resources

BE sure to visit our websites for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

## Grace Articles

### "Calvinism is the Gospel, and Nothing Else"

*"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."* (2 John 1:9)

HERE I stand, foolish as Paul might be, foolish as Peter, or any of those fishermen; but still, with the might of God, I grasp the sword of truth, coming there to *"preach Christ* [and Him] *crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:22-23).

…let me very briefly tell you what I believe preaching Christ and Him crucified is. My friends, I do not believe it is preaching Christ and Him crucified, to give people a batch of philosophy every Sunday morning and evening, and neglect the truths of this Holy Book. I do not believe it is preaching Christ and Him crucified, to leave out the main cardinal doctrines of the Word of God, and preach a religion which is all a mist and a haze, without any definite truths whatever. I take it that man does not preach Christ and Him crucified, who can get through a sermon without mentioning Christ's name once; nor does that man preach Christ and Him crucified, who leaves out the Holy Spirit's work, who never says a word about the Holy Ghost, so that indeed the hearers might say, "We do not so much as know whether there be a Holy Ghost" [Acts 19:2]. And I have my own private opinion, that there is no such thing as preaching Christ and Him crucified, unless you preach what now-a-days is called Calvinism. I have my own ideas, and those I always state boldly. It is a nickname to call it Calvinism. Calvinism is the gospel, and nothing else. I do not believe we can preach the gospel, if we do not preach justification by faith without works; nor unless we preach the sovereignty of God in His dispensation of grace; nor unless we exalt the electing, unchangeable, eternal, immutable, conquering love of Jehovah; nor, I think, can we preach the gospel, unless we base it upon the peculiar redemption which Christ made for His elect and chosen people; nor can I comprehend a gospel which lets saints fall away after they are called, and suffers the children of God to be burned in the fires of damnation, after having believed. [For He gives unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish (John 10:27, 1 Peter 1:5) AMEN!] — CHS